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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. JP920000367US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Masayoshi NAKANO et al.

Serial No: 09/683,281

Filed: December 7, 2001

For: ELECTRONIC INPUT APPARATUS
AND METHOD THEREOF

Examiner: Peter PRIZIO Jr.

Art Unit: 2674

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Supplemental Amendment is made in response to a telephone interview with the Examiner on October 28, 2004. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 7, 10, 12, 13 and 15 as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) An input system comprising:

a pen input apparatus including:

a plurality of penpoints;

5 a selector for selecting a specific penpoint from said plurality of penpoints contained within the pen input apparatus;

a ground detector configured to detect when the specific penpoint is in contact with a writing surface;

a control circuit coupled to the ground detector, the control circuit configured to distinguish between each of the plurality of penpoints; and

10 a transmitter for transmitting at least the track of said specific penpoint as position information to a computer system.

Claim 2. (previously presented) The input system according to claim 1,

wherein said pen input apparatus further comprises a frequency generator coupled to the control circuit for generating a different frequency for each said penpoint selected by said selector, and

5 electromagnetic wave outputting unit for outputting an electromagnetic wave having the frequency generated by said frequency generator, and

10 an input apparatus including a type recognition unit for recognizing the type of said penpoint selected by said selector said type recognition unit recognizes the type of said selected penpoint based on the frequency of the electromagnetic wave output by said electromagnetic wave outputting unit.

Claim 3. (previously presented) The input system according to claim 2,

wherein said selector includes a penpoint pushing-out mechanism for pushing out a specific penpoint from the plurality of penpoints

5 in the direction of the pen tip to select it,

and said electromagnetic wave outputting unit outputs an electromagnetic wave of a different frequency for each penpoint grounded by said penpoint ground detector.

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Claim 4. (original) The input system according to claim 1, further comprising a computer system including an application for generating image information according to said position information and the information on said type, and a display screen for displaying
5 said image information.

Claim 5. (previously presented) An electronic input apparatus for transmitting input information drawn with a pen to a computer system, comprising:
a selector for selecting a specific penpoint from a plurality
5 of penpoints in the pen;
a ground detector configured to detect when the specific penpoint is in contact with a writing surface;
a control circuit coupled to the ground detector, the control circuit configured to distinguish between each of the plurality of
10 penpoints;
a coordinate information recognition unit for recognizing a track drawn with a pen as coordinate information;
a type recognition unit for recognizing the type of said penpoint; and
15 a transmitter for transmitting said coordinate information recognized by said coordinate information recognition unit to said computer system, and adding the information on said type recognized by said type recognition unit to said coordinate information and transmitting them to said computer system.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The electronic input system according to claim 5, wherein said type recognition unit recognizes the type of said pen by a frequency of electromagnetic wave generated from said pen.

Claim 7. (currently amended) An electronic input apparatus comprising:

a digitizer for grasping a track drawn by a penpoint selected in a writing instrument including a plurality of penpoints and
5 allowing a predetermined penpoint to be selected from said plurality of penpoints contained within the digitizer, and recognizing the attribute of said penpoint;

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a ground detector configured to detect when the selected penpoint is in contact with a writing surface;

10 a control circuit coupled to the ground detector, the control circuit configured to distinguish between each of the plurality of penpoints; and

an interface for outputting the position information obtained from the track of said penpoint grasped by said digitizer, and
15 attribute information on said recognized attribute.

Claim 8. (original) The electronic input apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said digitizer allows a recording medium to be placed thereon, and grasps the track drawn on said recording medium by said penpoint of said writing instrument as electronic
5 information.

Claim 9. (original) The electronic input apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said writing instrument includes an oscillation circuit for generating a predetermined frequency, and a coil for outputting an electromagnetic wave by the output from said
5 oscillation circuit,

said oscillation circuit generating a different frequency for each penpoint selected.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A writing instrument for inputting to a digitizer, comprising:

a plurality of penpoints for drawing images on a recording medium placed on said digitizer;

5 a penpoint selector for selecting a specific penpoint from said plurality of penpoints contained within the writing instrument;

a ground detector configured to detect when the specific penpoint is in contact with a writing surface;

a control circuit coupled to the ground detector, the control
10 circuit configured to distinguish between each of the plurality of penpoints; and

an electromagnetic wave outputting unit for generating, to said digitizer, an electromagnetic wave of a different frequency for each penpoint selected by said penpoint selector.

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Claim 11. (original) The writing instrument for inputting to a digitizer according to claim 10, further comprising a pressure detector for detecting whether or not the penpoint selected by said penpoint selector was pressed against said recording medium,

5 wherein said electromagnetic wave outputting unit generates an electromagnetic wave according to the detection result by said pressure detector.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A digitizer comprising:

a pen including a plurality of penpoints contained within the pen and a control circuit configured to distinguish between each the plurality of penpoints;

5 a track recognition unit for recognizing the track of a pen manipulated by the user, the pen including a plurality of penpoints; a ground detector configured to detect when a selected penpoint is in contact with a writing surface;

10 a pen information recognition unit for recognizing the information on the type of said penpoint selected according to the information obtained from said pen; and

an output unit for generating position information from the track recognized by said track recognition unit, and adding the information on the type of said penpoint recognized by said pen
15 information recognition unit to the generated position information and outputting them.

Claim 13. (currently amended) A method for inputting coordinates comprising the steps of:

changing, at a pen, an output frequency of a frequency generator based on a selected penpoint from a plurality of penpoints
5 contained within the pen;

detecting when the selected penpoint is in contact with a writing surface;

10 receiving position information of the pen based on the track drawn by the user on recording medium placed on a coordinate input apparatus, and receiving attribute information on the type of a line used for the track drawn from the coordinate input apparatus; and
reflecting said received attribute information on said received

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position information to electronically record image information
corresponding to the track drawn by the user on said recording
15 medium.

Claim 14. (original) The method for inputting coordinates
according to claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

receiving attribute information on at least either one of the
color and thickness of the line, and

5 displaying said electronically recorded image information on a
display unit by using a line having a display color corresponding to
the color of the line drawn on said recording medium or a thickness
corresponding to the thickness of the line drawn.

Claim 15. (currently amended) A method for transmitting
coordinate information from a coordinate input apparatus to a
computer system, comprising the steps of:

changing, at a pen, an output frequency of a frequency
5 generator based on a selected penpoint from a plurality of penpoints
contained within the pen;

detecting when the selected penpoint is in contact with a
writing surface;

expressing the position information, based on a track drawn by
10 the user with said coordinate input apparatus, in X- and Y-
coordinates;

adding attribute information on the type of the line giving
said track to said position information expressed by said X- and Y-
coordinates, thereby to form a block; and

15 transmitting the formed block in a predetermined unit.

Claim 16. (canceled)

Claim 17. (previously presented) The input system of claim 1,
further comprising a frequency generator configured to change an
output frequency according to the specific penpoint selected.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The electronic input apparatus
of claim 5, further comprising a frequency generator configured to
change an output frequency according to the specific penpoint
selected.

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Claim 19. (previously presented) The electronic input apparatus of claim 7, wherein the writing instrument further includes a frequency generator configured to change an output frequency according to the specific penpoint selected.

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REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment is in response to the telephone interview with the Examiner. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 10, 12, 13 and 15 are amended. Currently pending claims 1-15 and 17-19 are believed allowable, with claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 12, 13 and 15 being independent claims.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claim 1 is amended to recite, in part, "a selector for selecting a specific penpoint from said plurality of penpoints contained within the pen input apparatus." Application, claim 1. Support for this amendment can be found at least at Fig. 3 of the Application. Thus, no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Claim 7 is amended to recite, in part, "said plurality of penpoints contained within the digitizer." Application, claim 7. Support for this amendment can be found at least at Fig. 3 of the Application. Thus, no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Claim 10 is amended to recite, in part, "said plurality of penpoints contained within the writing instrument." Application, claim 10. Support for this amendment can be found at least at Fig. 3 of the Application. Thus, no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Claim 12 is amended to recite, in part, "a plurality of penpoints contained within the pen" and "a ground detector configured to detect when a selected penpoint is in contact with a writing surface." Application, claim 12. Support for this amendment can be found at least at Fig. 3 of the Application. Thus, no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Claim 13 is amended to recite, in part, "detecting when the selected penpoint is in contact with a writing surface." Application, claim 13. Support for this amendment can be found at least at Fig. 3 of the Application. Thus, no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Claim 15 is amended to recite, in part, "detecting when the selected penpoint is in contact with a writing surface." Application,

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claim 15. Support for this amendment can be found at least at Fig. 3 of the Application. Thus, no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

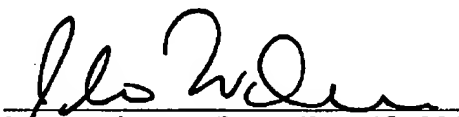
CONCLUSION

As discussed during the telephone interview, it is respectfully submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain at issue that the Examiner feels could best be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the attorney below.

No fee is believed due with this Amendment, however, should a fee be required please charge Deposit Account 50-0510. Should any extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof and charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 28, 2004


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